

[characterized by the fact that] wherein drying of the gel is carried out in a temperature range between 50 °C and 120 °C, with subsequent calcination between 500 °C and 800 °C, and sintering in a temperature range between 1300 °C and 1600 °C.--

-- 10. Method according to [one or several] either of Claims 1 [through 9] or 2, [characterized by the fact that] wherein comminution to the desired grain size is done before or after sintering.--

--13. (amended) Al₂O₃/SiC nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one] either of Claims 11 or 12, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the SiC particles are predominantly present intragranularly in the Al₂O₃ matrix. --

-- 14. (amended) Al₂O₃/SiC nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one or several] either of Claims 11 or 12 [through 13], [characterized by the fact that] wherein the Al₂O₃ crystals of the matrix show mean diameters of between 0.2 µm and 20 µm.--

-- 15. Al₂O₃/SiC nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one or several] either of Claims 11 or 12 [through 13], [characterized by the fact that] wherein the Al₂O₃ matrix has a submicron structure and a mean particle size of < 1 µm, preferably < 0.5 µm. --

-- 19. (amended) Al₂O₃/SiC nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one or several] either of Claims 16 through 18, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the coarse Al₂O₃ crystals have a length/width ratio of between 2:1 and 10:1, preferably between 4:1 and 6:1. --

-- 20. (amended) Utilization of Al₂O₃/SiC nanocomposite abrasive grains according to [one or several of] Claim[s] 11 [– 19 for the production of] in combination with backing substrates or materials to comprise grinding belts [and] or grinding disks. --

A clean net copy of claim 1 in English as so amended appears at Appendix A to this Amendment and a copy in German at Appendix B. Clean net copies of claims 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20 as so amended also appear at Appendix A.

Amended claim 1 was considered in the International Preliminary Examination report of 14 December 2001 (the claim having been submitted to the IPEA on 27 November 2001).

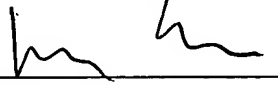
If sums are owed due to claim adjustments, please charge (or debit) Deposit Account 03-2410.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Moeltgen, Pirmin Wilhelm, Applicants

Dated: March 21, 2002

By:


Jerry Cohen
Reg. No. 20,522
Attorney for Applicants